When a new session is started, a unique session id can be generated. Within the same session, all embedded links in the response page can then be stamped with the same session id. A sessioned request is defined as a request that has session id information in addition to the request itself. The proxy server can relate a sessioned request to a session via the session id. The session continues as long as the user stays in the links of the first page or pages generated from links in the first page. A session expires when its age reaches the lifetime set by the server. The session lifetime can be configurable through a configuration parameter. Due to the dynamic nature of the session, users do not have to log into the proxy server that provides centralized cookie handling services. The same user can start multiple sessions at the same time.

Please replace the paragraph beginning at page 3 line 10, as shown below.

In one embodiment, when a sessioned request is received, the proxy first retrieves and strips off the session id from the request URL. The session id and the URL are then used to retrieve the cookies from the cookie repository. The proxy then uses the cookies retrieved to generate a cookie header. The new cookie header is then appended to the original request header. The session information is removed from the URL. The request is then sent to the external web site to fetch the page. After receiving the page from the external web site, the same procedure as that of handling a fresh request is used to process the header and the page.

- 2 -